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Claims

1. A method of controlling a system for processing stored information on a storage medium, comprising the steps of:

(A) playing back (127) stored information during a play mode of operation;

(B) providing (134) to a user, during play mode of operation, an opportunity to select a bookmark, representing a corresponding location within the stored information, from among a plurality of bookmarks responsive to user input; and

(C) changing (138) to playing back the stored information from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark during the play mode of operation, characterized in that step (B) includes

determining (130) the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks which may be associated with the storage medium;

determining (132) which of the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks are actually available for the storage medium;

generating (134) an on-screen menu (110) displaying the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks available and the actually available ones of the plurality of bookmarks associated with the storage medium, the menu allowing the user to perform one of:

(a) set a new bookmark;

(b) select a bookmark and clearing the selected bookmark,

(c) select a bookmark and play back the stored information

from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark, and

(d) undo a previously performed operation

while continuing to watch program information playback in a background portion of the video display.

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2. The method of claim 1, further characterized by the steps of:
grouping the plurality of bookmarks into sets each having a predetermined
number of bookmarks;

5 storing each group of bookmarks; and
providing to the user an opportunity to retrieve a desired set of bookmarks

3. The method of claim 1, characterized in that:

10 step (B) further comprises the step of providing to the user an opportunity
to select a first and a second bookmark from among the plurality of bookmarks,
and

15 step (C) further comprises the step of changing to playback the stored
information from the location corresponding to the first selected bookmark to the
location corresponding to the location of the second bookmark.

20 4. The method of claim 3, characterized in that step (C) further comprises
the step of selectively continually repeating the playback of the stored
information from the location corresponding to the first selected bookmark to the
location corresponding to the location of the second bookmark, in response to
user control.

5. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the storage medium is a
DVD disk, and wherein:

25 the step of determining (132) the bookmarks actually present for the
particular DVD disk comprises evaluating data related to the DVD disk in non-
volatile memory in the disk player.

30 6. The method of claim 1, characterized in that step (B) is preceded by
the step of determining (144) whether a mode of operation enabling user access
to bookmarks during play mode of operation is enabled; and

performing steps (B) and (C) only if the mode of operation user access to
bookmarks during play mode of operation is enabled.

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7. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the system comprises a DVD player and the storage medium comprises a DVD disk.

5 8. The method of claim 7, characterized in that the step of setting a new bookmark in response to a user command comprises storing data associated with a pause function, including the nearest NAV_PACK address, in conformance with the DVD specification.

10 9. The method of claim 8, characterized in that the step of changing playback from a new bookmarked location comprises launching a user operative RESUME command, using a stored NAV_PACK address, in conformance with the DVD specification.

15 10. The method of claim 1, characterized in that step (C) further comprises the steps of selecting a first and second bookmark and continually repeating playing back the stored information from the location corresponding to the first selected bookmark to location corresponding to the second selected bookmark.

20 11. Apparatus for processing information stored on a storage medium, comprising:

25 a data processing unit (28,30) for accessing and processing information stored on the storage medium during the play mode of operation of the apparatus;

a user control device (41) for receiving user input;

an on-screen display device (34,35) for generating on-screen displays; and

30 a controller (40), coupled to the data processing unit, the user control device, and the on-screen display device, for activating the play mode of operation, and providing to a user during the play mode of operation an opportunity to access previously stored bookmarks, characterized in that

the controller determines (130) the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks which may be associated with the storage medium, and which of the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks are actually available (132) for the storage medium, and

5 the on-screen display unit generates (134) an on-screen menu (110) displaying the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks available and the actually available ones of the plurality of bookmarks associated with the storage medium, the menu allowing the user to perform one of:

(a) set a new bookmark;

10 (b) select a bookmark and clearing the selected bookmark,

(c) select a bookmark and playing back the stored information from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark, and

(d) allow the user to undo a previously performed operation while continuing to watch the information playback in a background portion of a video display.

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